

Guardian

Volume 12, Issue 3 Produced for Personnel of KFOR Multi-National Brigade (East) March 23, 2005



TASK FORCE TORNADO
CRC

Women's History Month

Do you think you have the right of way?



Think Again.



The average preschooler stands four inches below
the height of a HMMWV wheel.

SLOW DOWN, SAFETY FIRST

This message brought to you by Task Force Falcon Command Information

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PHOTO BY SPC. LYNETTE HOKE

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PHOTO BY SPC. LYNETTE HOKE

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On the Cover: 2nd Lt. Lev "Alex" Krutz, 2nd Platoon, Alpha Company, Task Force Tornado directs a convoy to the staging area before crowd riot control training at Camp Bondsteel.

COVER PHOTO BY SPC. LYNETTE HOKE

Incentives to keep Soldiers in boots

It is my mission to keep good Soldiers in uniform and advise them of all the options available to them throughout their career.



I am Master Sgt. Richard Olson and I am the Retention Non Commissioned Officer for Task Force Falcon and all its subordinate task forces. It is my mission to keep good Soldiers in uniform and advise them of all the options available to them throughout their career.

This is an exciting time in the world of retention! Never in my 26 years of military service have I seen such amazing incentives to keep qualified Soldiers in boots. For example, if you have less than 16 years of service you may be qualified for a bonus of up to \$15,000, regardless of your military occupational skill. This bonus is available to Technicians and Active Guard and Reserve Soldiers as well. If you re-enlist while you are in Kosovo, then all bonuses are tax free, even if the bonus is paid to you after your return to the United States.

Eligible Soldiers who want to re-enlist for a three year period will receive

\$7,500. Those who re-enlist for a six year period will receive \$15,000. These bonuses are typically paid to the Soldier within one month of beginning their new contract.

Furthermore, deployed soldiers may re-enlist up to a year before their current ETS date. This offer is in contrast to the normal 90-day window previously allowed. You will not receive any bonuses until after you finish your current enlistment but you can lock the bonus in now to receive a tax free bonus.

Don't let this incredible opportunity pass you by! I encourage all interested Soldiers to stop by my office or call me with questions. I am located on Camp Bondsteel in Admin Alley at building #1340D, room #D5N, and can be reached by telephone at #5002. I also have an office at Camp Monteith where I can meet with Soldiers by appointment. ☒

Guardian

Produced for Personnel of KFOR Multi National Brigade (East)

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Playin' it Safe, Always a Winner, offers rewards to Soldiers for accident prevention

By Anne Ferguson

"Playin' it SAFE, Always a Winner" is the safety campaign slogan for the latest safety awards program. This campaign has been established to benefit the Soldiers and the Department of Defense civilians at Camps Bondsteel and Monteith. Personnel recognized for significant acts or services that directly support accident prevention will be awarded.

The senior Non-Commissioned Officer or designated senior person at each Task Force /Area Support Team (AST) is holding scratch-off cards that represent a variety of awards pictured.

Shown in the picture are: scratch-off card, insulated travel mugs, flashlights, multi-tools, thermoses, and tape measures.

The safety awards program was implemented by a Task Force Falcon (TFF) memorandum dated Dec.8, 2004, subject: Safety Awards Program, signed by Col. James S. Green, (former) Chief of Staff, TFF.

With the "Playin' it SAFE" scratch-off cards, the safety staff hopes to draw awareness to accident



prevention and the Soldier might get an award, too. Questions can be answered by Anne Ferguson, AST Safety Manager, DSN 781-3499, Anne.Ferguson@bondsteel2.areur.army.mil



Army announces Close Combat Badges

In response to requests from field commanders and after careful analysis, the U.S. Army announced a new badge for selected combat arms Soldiers in combat arms brigades who engage in active ground combat.

The Close Combat Badge will provide special recognition to ground combat arms Soldiers who are trained and employed in direct combat missions similar to Infantry and Special Forces who will continue to be recognized for their ground-combat role

with the Combat Infantryman Badge.

The Army will award the CCB to Armor, Cavalry, Combat Engineer, and Field Artillery Soldiers in Military Occupational Specialties or corresponding officer branch/specialties recognized as having a high probability to routinely engage in direct combat, and they must be assigned or attached to an Army unit of brigade or below that is purposefully organized to routinely conduct close combat operations and

engage in direct combat in accordance with existing rules and policy.

The CCB will be presented only to eligible Soldiers who are personally present and under fire while engaged in active ground combat, to close with and destroy the enemy with direct fires.

The Army expects to release in March an administrative message outlining exact rules and regulations. The CCB should be available this Fall through unit supply and also for purchase in military clothing sales stores.



Italian Carabinieri and French Gendarmerie Soldiers practice loading and unloading a simulated patient from an air ambulance. Later, the Soldiers had the opportunity to show their skills with the helicopter's engines and rotor blades running.

MEDEVAC training at MSU

Story and Photos by Sgt. 1st Class John Makamson

A rainy afternoon with high winds and low clouds posed questions whether soldiers from the Multinational Brigade Special Units (MSU) would conduct their training for the day.

The unit coordinated helicopter medical evacuation (MEDEVAC) training with support from Task Force Shadow, aviation. The Soldiers' excitement and dedication was enough to conquer any attempt by Mother Nature to spoil the event.

For many of these Soldiers, this was their first experience working in, and around, the American UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter.

The clouds lifted and light rain fell over the MSU, the base for the Italian Carabinieri and the French Gendar-

merie units.

They received word that the mission was a "go" and the troops finished preparations to receive the American helicopter.

"This event proved to be historic," said CW2 Peter A. Motiekonis, the Italian Liaison Officer, "This is the first time that an American Helicopter has landed at the MSU."

Currently, Charlie Company is composed of two Army National Guard units, the 24th Medical Company, Air Ambulance, based in, Wichita, Kan., and the 717th Medical Company, Air , based in Santa Fe, N.M. Both units form the Air Ambulance assets of MNB (East).

Once on the ground, Sgt. Brent Waterhouse, a resident of Wichita,

Kan., and a flight medic for Charlie Company Air Ambulance, gave instructions for MEDEVAC procedures.

The first part of the training consisted of static load training. In this portion, Task Force Shadow Soldiers presented the basics of moving in and around an aircraft.

Waterhouse showed them where they should position themselves on the landing zone prior to the aircraft's arrival, how to move to the helicopter and how to enter it safely. The Guardsman also emphasized the importance of always maintaining safe awareness around a helicopter, with its rotors turning overhead.

1st Sgt. Blake James, of Topeka, Kan. and Crew Chief Sgt. Paul Herrera, Santa Fe, N.M. assisted in the



Above, members of the Air Ambulance of MNB (E) make history as they are the first to land a U.S. helicopter on the parade field of the MSU.

instruction.

"I think MEDEVAC training is necessary training for all KFOR Soldiers. It was very realistic to have the helicopter at the base," said OR5 Guy Segalat from Tulle, France and a member of the Gendarmerie.

Once the crew trained the Soldiers to proficiency on cold-loading, pilot CW4 Richard Marsh from Topeka, Kan. and pilot in command, CW4 Gary Lacore from Lawrence, Kan., started the aircraft's engines and prepared to add a bit of realism to the day's training plan.

Each group practiced receiving commands from the crew chief, moving to the roaring aircraft, loading the patient and then unloading them from the helicopter and then safely exiting to the landing zone. The troops took turns so all the Soldiers could have hands-on training.

At the end of the day, the MSU Personnel had increased their knowledge

in U.S. MEDEVAC procedures. For the most part, the Soldiers were quite impressed with the sleek and powerful medical UH-60 as well as their instructors.

"We saw this training first-hand and we know how it works. We can train the rest of our Soldiers on MEDEVAC procedures. This has been very useful training for us," said Motiekonis, "We have a good rapport with the American Soldiers here. This makes all of us even stronger. We work, train, eat and laugh together; this is what brings our countries closer together."

The MSU troops rewarded their instructors by inviting them to an Italian meal and espresso coffee. But the real reward came from quality training, such as MEDEVAC rehearsals and building, multi-national partnerships. This kind of training helps everyone maintain a safe and secure environment in Kosovo. ☐



(top photo) 1st Sgt. Blake James demonstrates how to position a litter aboard a Blackhawk. (center photo) Sgt. Brent Waterhouse, a flight medic for Charlie Company Air Ambulance, instructs the MSU Soldiers, through Interpreters, CW2 Peter A. Motiekonis and Cpt. Nicolas Bassot, on proper MEDEVAC procedures. (Bottom photo) Members of the Carabinieri swiftly move a simulated patient from a running UH-60 Helicopter

Policy every Soldier needs to know

Policy Letter #6, Barracks Visitations, restricts Soldiers from having overnight guest and puts a curfew on visitors allowed in living quarters. Soldiers violating these restrictions could be faced with substantial punishments.



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY SPC. LYNETTE HOKÉ

See Johnny run. See Johnny see Jane. See Johnny run to Jane's room. See Johnny and Jane spend all night together. See Johnny and Jane lose rank and pay because they violated Policy Letter #6.

Johnny and Jane wouldn't have gone through this if they just followed the regulations for guest visitations.

Command Policy Letter #6, written on September, 2004 imposes a curfew for all personnel under the command of Multi-National Brigade East.

Within Policy Letter #6, it has stated restrictions on certain activities that are essential to maintain the security, health, and welfare of MNB (E) forces and to prevent conduct prejudicial to good order and discipline or of a nature to bring discredit upon MNB (E) Forces.

For Example: If Johnny spent all night with Jane, it may affect the quality of his job performance the next day and the other people in the room that were kept up all night long.

Personnel living in multiple occupancy rooms may have guests in their quarters until 2200 hours. Sunday through Thursday, provided that all

roommates approve.

For Example: Johnny can go to Jane's room, provided that all of Jane's roommates approve of Johnny being in that room.

Personnel living in multiple occupancy rooms may have guests in their quarters until 2400 hours Friday and Saturday, provided that all roommates approve. The host is responsible for the conduct of their guest.

No one may have guests in their room from 2200 to 0800 Sunday through Thursday and 2400-0800 Friday and Saturday. Both the guest and the occupant of the room are responsible for complying with the visitations hours.

For Example: If Johnny spills something while watching a movie in Jane's room, Johnny (or Jane) is required to clean it up, (Not to mention, common courtesy is a must with joint living quarters.)

Personnel in single occupancy rooms may have visitors at their discretion, however, they still may not have guest in their room 2200-0800 Sunday through Thursday and 2400 - 0800 Friday and Saturday. Both the guest

and occupant of the room are responsible for complying with the visitation hours.

For Example: Jane can't spend all night in her boss's room watching movies or discussing work quality.

According to Policy Letter #6, the above restrictions are punishable. For violations of the policy Soldiers assigned or attached to MNB (E) may be court martialed, receive non-judicial punishment, or receive adverse administrative action or any combination thereof.

Soldiers like Johnny and Jane want to relax during their off duty hours. Recently released movies, bigger televisions, hot video games or just good conversation is found in rooms other than their own. Johnny and Jane can visits fellow Soldiers but there are a few restrictions that all Soldiers need to follow. ❏

*The Guardian wishes to thank Cpt. Gregory Edson, Commanding Officer of Quick Reaction Force Alpha Company and Pfc. Joseph W. Cruisinberry, Personnel Security Detail, Headquarter Company of Task Force Tornado for help with the photo illustration.

Relief at no cost to Soldiers

Free food, free room and board and now free over the counter medications. Sick call isn't the only way to feel relieved of minor illnesses.

Maj. Harold Hunt, an orthopedic surgeon at Camp Bondsteel receives over the counter medication from Lt. Col. William Ford at the pharmacy.



PHOTO BY SPC. ALICIA DILL

In a world where it seems like everything costs money, some people forget the popular saying "The best things in life are free". Non-prescription medications are items average Soldier are used to paying for. But not here at Camp Bondsteel. The pharmacy located at the hospital provides a number of free medications to Soldiers and the only thing required to receive them is your signature.

For example, instead of going through the timely process of sick call to only receive throat lozenges, a Soldier can cut the wait and head straight to the pharmacy. Over the counter medications may be all a Soldier needs to feel better.

"Most infections causing common symptoms like runny noses, sore throats, vomiting and diarrhea are viral and no antibiotic or prescription medicine will get rid of the infection any faster," said Capt. Jaysun Cousins, Emergency Medical Technician physician of Task Force Med, from Norfolk, Virginia.

"The medicines the pharmacy gives out without a doctor's prescription are the same as what is available over the counter back home or in the Post Exchange, except they are free from the pharmacy," he said. "In most cases, these are all that are needed to keep

patients feeling comfortable while the body naturally takes care of the infection," said Cousins.

Lt. Col. William Ford, resident pharmacist at Camp Bondsteel is just the man to see to receive these over the counter items. The Birmingham, Ala, native has worked as an independent pharmacist since the 70's and is from the 1207th United States Army Hospital.

Anyone who qualifies for medical care at Camp Bondsteel can receive the medication which includes Soldiers and some civilians, said Ford. It is a great service to provide because it saves the Soldier time and money, he said. This type of service is not an Army wide convenience, however most mobilized units have them, said Ford.

One challenge is running out of the more popular medication such as Ibuprofen, said Ford. "It's because it's a good pain reliever, not addictive and most people can tolerate it pretty well," he said. When the pharmacy runs out of medications it usually takes two weeks to be restocked.

The busiest time for the pharmacy is in the morning, said Ford. The pharmacy hours are from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Wednesday and Friday, 8 a.m. to 11 a.m., Thursday and

Saturday. The pharmacy is closed on Sunday. ☐

Here is a list of medicines that are free to pick up at the pharmacy.

Available items

- Acetaminophen 325 MG
- Aspirin 325 MG
- Motrin 200 MG
- Benadryl Capsules
- Saline spray
- Allergy Tablets
- Guaifenesin DM syrup
- Sudafed 30 MG
- Milk of Magnesia
- Actifed
- Maalox suspension
- Pepto-bismol tablets
- Clotrimazole cream
- Anti-fungal powder
- Hydrocortisone cream 1%
- Bacitracin Ointment
- Calamine lotion
- Sunscreen
- Chapstick
- Cepacol Lozenges
- Bengay ointment
- Benzocaine 20%
- Gyne-Lotrimin 1% Cream
- Eucerin Lotion
- Multivitamin tabs

What makes the Army: Soldiers



Staff Sgt. Charles G. Miller leads the pack while providing protection duties during on a patrol in the MNB(East) sector. Brig. Gen. William H Wade II, commander MNB (E) and Maj. Peter Szczepanski, commander, Task Force Sidewinder follow close behind.

Why did you join the Army? The main reason was to become a medic. I joined the Marine Corps as an Infantryman in July of 1991 just out of high school and did that for four years. While I was in Okinawa I was involved in a Super-Squad competition. I had been training for about eight months, and in the first 15 minutes of the competition I dislocated my elbow and messed up my ankle. While I was on the obstacle course, I jumped up and tried to grab a bar and missed. I came down with my arm out to break my fall and pop! My unit sent me over to the battalion aid station for help and I liked it. Then I went into the Naval Reserves for two years to try and become a corpsman so I could go back and work with

marines. It didn't work out because they didn't have the money to send me to school so I joined the guard to get a medic job.

What is a day in the life of Staff Sgt. Miller like here in Kosovo?

I would say that right now it's mainly planning the missions for each day. My platoon escorts the command group personnel to their different appointments outside the wire.

We find out who from the command group is going out and what city they are going to, then I help my soldiers develop the route security for it. A successful mission for me is making sure that people get where they are supposed to, when they need to get there and that everyone gets home safe.

As the NCOIC of TF Sidewinder's PSD, what advice would you give to soldiers going outside the wire?

Anyone that leaves the wire needs to know where they are at all times. So if anything happens, even a random act of violence, they need to be able to tell someone where they are so that they can get help. The main thing though is basic soldiering. Make sure your vehicle is running properly so you don't break down in freezing cold weather. Make sure that you have food and water with you in case you do break down and your communications need to be working. It's those basic soldiering skills that some people take for granted that will make the difference between a situation

being an inconvenience or life threatening.

With all the different things you've done in your career, what has been the highlight?

I would say this mission. Just for the simple fact that we're here trying to help these people and I have never been deployed for this long before. This is an actual mission that we've been assigned to. There is a "war on terror" going on and this is my little part.

How has the Army helped you?

I think the military as a whole has made me who I am. I know that when I was in high school I was lazy. I remember I had a job with my step-brother working construction. I did it for one day and said "forget this"! The military

you on your civilian job?

Some of the things we do are exactly the same. Your attention to detail, your situational awareness, and those things that we have been trained on prior to coming here, go hand in hand with my job as a deputy sheriff. Things like bearing, keeping your uniform squared away and physical fitness are closely paralleled between law enforcement and the military.

How does your family feel about your mission here in Kosovo?

Of course they miss me, but my step-daughter, who is about to graduate from high school, wrote a letter about us being here and how proud she is of us. I thought that was pretty good.

What words of wisdom would you offer to someone facing a deployment here in Kosovo?

I would tell them that you have to have a genuine concern for people, because that is why we are here. Our overall mission is to provide a safe and secure environment for the people of Kosovo, and even if your job is in an office and you don't get outside the wire you can show that concern by the way you treat those who work here. You also need to develop in yourself those "attention to detail" things. Making sure your equipment works and that you have the things you need. ☐

has instilled in me a good work ethic and I try to do the best I can with what I've got. The thing that keeps me going is seeing the people around me working to the utmost of their ability.

What is your civilian job back home?

I am a deputy sheriff for San Bernardino County, Calif.

Has your military career helped

Name: Charles G. Miller
IV

DOB: June 6, 1973

MOS: 11B – Personnel
Security Detail (PSD)
NCOIC

Hobbies: SCUBA Diving,
spending time with kids

Hometown: Yucaipa,
Calif..

Unit: HHC 1-160

Rank: Staff Sgt.

DOR: July 1, 2004



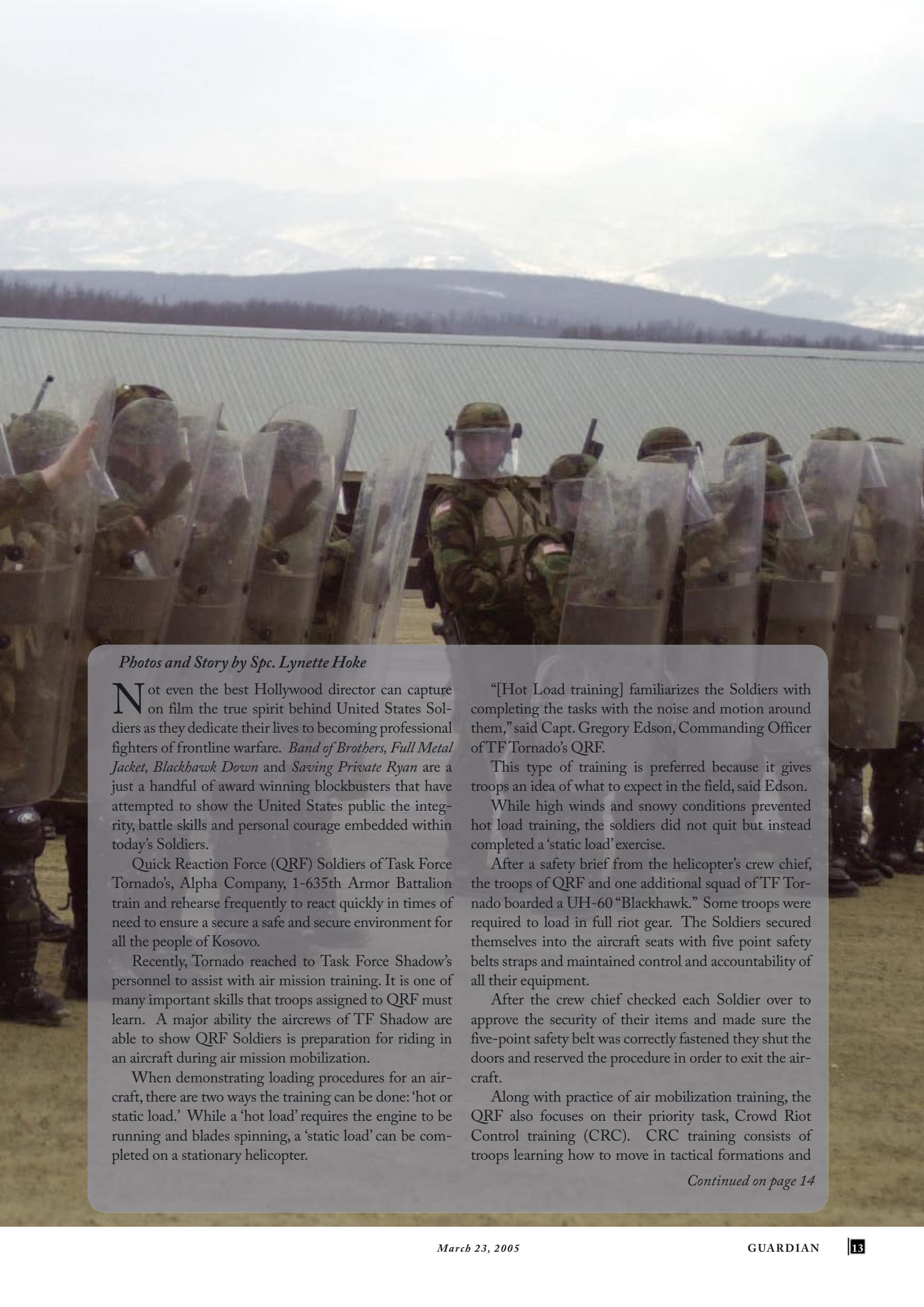
(above) Staff Sgt. Charles G. Miller keeps watch and provides force protection duties while on a patrol in the MNB(East) sector.



Task Force Tornado **CRC**



1st and 2nd Platoon of Task Force Tornado Quick Reaction Force forms up after a command order during crowd riot control training on the parking lot near the South Town Chapel at Camp Bondsteel.



Photos and Story by Spc. Lynette Hoke

Not even the best Hollywood director can capture on film the true spirit behind United States Soldiers as they dedicate their lives to becoming professional fighters of frontline warfare. *Band of Brothers*, *Full Metal Jacket*, *Blackhawk Down* and *Saving Private Ryan* are a just a handful of award winning blockbusters that have attempted to show the United States public the integrity, battle skills and personal courage embedded within today's Soldiers.

Quick Reaction Force (QRF) Soldiers of Task Force Tornado's, Alpha Company, 1-635th Armor Battalion train and rehearse frequently to react quickly in times of need to ensure a secure a safe and secure environment for all the people of Kosovo.

Recently, Tornado reached to Task Force Shadow's personnel to assist with air mission training. It is one of many important skills that troops assigned to QRF must learn. A major ability the aircrews of TF Shadow are able to show QRF Soldiers is preparation for riding in an aircraft during air mission mobilization.

When demonstrating loading procedures for an aircraft, there are two ways the training can be done: 'hot or static load.' While a 'hot load' requires the engine to be running and blades spinning, a 'static load' can be completed on a stationary helicopter.

"[Hot Load training] familiarizes the Soldiers with completing the tasks with the noise and motion around them," said Capt. Gregory Edson, Commanding Officer of TF Tornado's QRF.

This type of training is preferred because it gives troops an idea of what to expect in the field, said Edson.

While high winds and snowy conditions prevented hot load training, the soldiers did not quit but instead completed a 'static load' exercise.

After a safety brief from the helicopter's crew chief, the troops of QRF and one additional squad of TF Tornado boarded a UH-60 "Blackhawk." Some troops were required to load in full riot gear. The Soldiers secured themselves into the aircraft seats with five point safety belts straps and maintained control and accountability of all their equipment.

After the crew chief checked each Soldier over to approve the security of their items and made sure the five-point safety belt was correctly fastened they shut the doors and reserved the procedure in order to exit the aircraft.

Along with practice of air mobilization training, the QRF also focuses on their priority task, Crowd Riot Control training (CRC). CRC training consists of troops learning how to move in tactical formations and

Continued on page 14



Above, 1st and 2nd platoon of Task Force Tornado Quick Reaction Force form up for a convoy movement to the practice area for crowd riot control training on Camp Bondsteel. Below, Sgt. 1st class Steve Harmon takes off his Nuclear Biological Chemical protective mask when the command order, "all clear," was given at the end of the crowd riot control training. Right, The Soldiers of 1st and 2nd Platoon are taught defensive positions during recent crowd riot training exercise.

Continued from page 14

react to command orders.

"(QRF) can be called out for a show of force to prevent a situation from getting out hand, or for an actual riot that is already out of control," said Edson.

TF Tornado Alpha Company has seven CRC certified instructors. The instructors have completed the Non Lethal Weapons Instructors course in Ft. Leonard Wood, Mo. and the Civil Disturbance Training Program at Salina, Kan.

Crowd and riot control involves a multitude of tasks. A small list of the missions included in CRC training are but not limited to: use of non-lethal weapons, shields and batons.

CRC is practiced regularly, just like Combat Technical Training (CTT). Also like CTT, new techniques and equipment are integrated into training as soon as they become available, said Edson.

"One cannot just walk onto a range, pickup a rifle and score 100% every single time without some form of preparation or practice," said Sgt. John Steel, Alpha Company, Training Non-Commission Officer, "CRC movements have to be practiced as well."

"The speed and confidence of their reactions will make them more effective and safer," said Edson, "We hope that we do not have to employ our riot control skills here in





Kosovo, but we will be prepared in case we are called to.”

Training sites for TF Tornado’s CRC training are very limited at Camp Bondsteel. Adverse locations are ideal for advanced CRC training, said Edson. The more complex the urban terrain, the more realist environment Soldiers are able to be trained in, he said.

“Training in an open field is OK for the 101 level tasks, but as soon as the Soldiers are ready to move beyond that level, we need to be able to train around buildings, with our support vehicles, and other assets,” said Edson.

“The best place for realism is an actual environment, such as a square with buildings, roads and intersections and the like,” said Steel.

Despite not having ideal training environments, the QRF troops continue with regular training.

“We are taking the lessons learned in the past and trying to make KFOR 6B the most prepared, safest, and best trained that Kosovo has seen,” said Steel.

Unlike Hollywood, real soldiers do not have the luxury of calling “cut” when a situation goes bad, but with experienced leadership and continuous training the QRF continues to rehearse for their important role in the KFOR mission. 🇰🇲

Warming hearts and minds

Story and Photos by Master Sgt. Lee Roberts, USAF

When United States, Slovak, Czech and Irish troops assigned to Kosovo Force (KFOR) arrived in Plementina/Plemetine and Azotikut on a humanitarian mission Feb. 20, they spotted adults and children walking through the snow and mud in frayed sandals and torn socks, some wearing only pieces of pinned-up fabric as clothing.

U.S. Army Maj. David Ellis, from Kosovo Force headquarters, hands out a box of American-donated goods to needy families in Plementina, Kosovo, on Feb. 20. The Americans and Slovaks from KFOR teamed up on the humanitarian mission of goodwill. Photo by Master Sgt. Lee Roberts, USAF

Observing the living conditions, detecting an air of hopelessness, and seeing families in dire need of even the most basic necessities of life, every KFOR volunteer sprung into action and infused a measure of hope into these poverty-stricken areas.

Working side by side with several United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo representatives and local community leaders, KFOR's troops quickly unloaded United States-donated boxes of clothing, hygiene items and toys and distributed the assistance to 113 families and more than 500 people in both communities. At each donation site, about 20 United States servicemembers ranging from private to colonel labored with coalition partners to deliver the goodwill.

U.S. Air Force Capt. Laura Bunyan, who works in KFOR's intelligence center, said she is humbled to participate in such an important mission of compassion and to know she is making a difference helping the people of Kosovo during her deployment.

"The most touching thing was the sense of family that each community showed. The people share everything among their family and with their neighbors, even though they have very little food and worldly possessions," said Bunyan, who is from Northridge, Calif.

Other KFOR members also were impressed by the willingness of the aid

recipients to share anything they had with the KFOR humanitarians, even when they had nothing to give but a smile and warm handshake.

U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Stephen Hale said he received a lot of satisfaction helping the citizens in Plementina/Plemetine and Azotikut. But what stuck in his mind the most is the moment he first arrived in Azotikut.

"I had barely stepped out of my vehicle when a



(Above) A man in Plementina leaves with his box of clothing, hygiene items and toys for his family. (Left) Staff Sgt. Mona Walters, from the U.S. National Support Element in Pristina, Kosovo, holds a baby while visiting with residents of Azotikut during a humanitarian mission there.



woman came onto the road from within the gated confines of her enclave," he said. "She said, in very clear English, 'American soldier ... I have babies. Please come to see.' She was smiling and very noticeably excited about our presence and was proud beyond typical motherly pride to show us her babies."

The woman invited the NATO Fuel Funds manager into her home, where four women proudly introduced their children and asked to have their pictures taken. Hale, an Oxford, Ind., native, left the home after his short visit, but later returned with a box of extra



(Below) Sgt. David Schermerhorn and U.S. Air Force Capt. Laura Bunyan, from Kosovo Force headquarters in Pristina, Kosovo, prepare donation boxes at Camp Shajkovac on Feb. 19 to be distributed in the villages of Plementina and Azotikut the next day

toys.

"I will never forget the look on her face or the look of amazement and surprise on the faces of a half-dozen children as we laid the box on the floor



Maj. David Ellis, from Kosovo Force headquarters, hands out a box of United States-donated goods to needy families in Plementina/Plementine, Kosovo, on Feb. 20. The United States and Slovaks from KFOR teamed up on the humanitarian mission of goodwill.

for her children's inspection," Hale said.

Lulete Gajrami, a resident of Azotikut and one of the women in the home Hale visited, grinned from ear to ear and commented how good it feels that someone is thinking about her community.

"It was good to receive these things and the toys," she said.

Azotikut leader Jetullah Bajrami said the community is basically unemployed, so the donations were very valuable to them.

"Our kids are in need of any help they can get right now. We are not able to offer the kids any toys, ... therefore I would like to thank KFOR for bringing a little happiness to the kids here," he said.

U.S. Army Maj. David Ellis, military assistant to the political adviser for the commander of KFOR, coordinated the two-day mission and said the success of the mission and the effort of every KFOR member is evident.

Nonetheless, he acknowledged the positive results also are due to a lot of behind-the-scenes work. He especially credits Berta Grunaum, a local community officer for UNMIK, whose personal knowledge and commitment made it possible for KFOR to deliver the assistance to the areas needing it most.

Also, 15 United States and 15 Slovak volunteers gathered at Camp Shajkovac Feb. 19 to prepare donation boxes. The Slovak contingent from the Czech/Slovak Battle Group hosted the United States and fed and entertained them, which drew the two groups together as a team before the next day's delivery mission.

Slovak Maj. Martin Špicák, deputy commander of Camp Shajkovac, said the chance to work together with the United States is good for everyone involved. "It's a pleasure cooperating with the United States soldiers," he said. "One of our main tasks here is to help the citizens

and to support them. So I'm glad our soldiers could do this mission alongside the Americans."

U.S. Navy Lt. Sarah Stancati, from Kalamazoo, Mich., said her experience at Camp Shajkovac made the mission even more worthwhile.

"I really enjoy the opportunity to work with forces from other countries," she said. "It provides an opportunity to get out, visit another camp, and have some fun, at the same time doing something worthwhile."

The United States-led mission is over, but Ellis said the men and women of KFOR shared a piece of their heart with every donation. "There is no administrative boundary line when it comes to the caring," the major said. "Today we served together to bring peace and a little bit of happiness to the people of Kosovo. It is an honor to be a part of it, and I will always be proud to have assisted in some small way." □

Love Your Neighbor

Soldiers have seen a need here in Kosovo and decided to do something about it, they are involving friends and family back home.



Rexhep Morina (left), Director of the Kamenica Red Cross, distributes much needed clothing and blankets donated by families of KFOR Soldiers.

Community can be defined as a unified body of individuals that share common interests or live in a particular area. The Soldiers of KFOR 6B, including their friends and families back home, have expanded the boundaries of their communities by including the people of Kosovo as neighbors.

Throughout our country's history, belonging to a community meant when someone needed help their neighbors stepped in.

"It is always right to help people in need," said Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Daniel J. Viveros, Deputy Staff Chaplain for Task Force Falcon. "We as Christians are called on to 'love our neighbor as ourselves', and if our country and people were in need, I'm sure we too would appreciate all the help we could get."

"I feel it is important for communities back home to be involved in the work here, because they are interested in helping those less fortunate," said Chaplain (Maj.) Douglas M. Compton, Task Force Shadow Chaplain. "The answer would be 'Yes, I am my brother's keeper.'"

Soldiers interested in the different

humanitarian programs that were started in Kosovo have seen first hand the need for assistance and expressed that need back home. Churches and individuals are sending boxes of clothing and money to those in need.

"I have visited the Liria Women's Center in Gnjilane/Gjilan and my wife in particular is working with our church to raise funds for them," said Chaplain (Maj.) Oran Roberts, Task Force Sidewinder Chaplain. "My son, who is a seminary student in Kansas City, is raising funds among the students for them."

Soldiers have seen a need here in Kosovo and decided to do something about it, they are involving friends and family back home.

"I think it is important to include our communities because that makes them a part of our mission," said Roberts. "It allows them to participate with us and gives them the opportunity to be a part of what we are doing."

Some local organizations rely on the help provided by KFOR Soldiers and their communities.

"Sometimes I cannot imagine how

the poor will make it," said Rexhep Morina, Director of the Kamenica Red Cross. "When I see the help American and German citizens have provided I find courage that we can assist those who are in need."

Recently Task Force Sidewinder made a delivery of clothing and school supplies to the Red Cross in Kamenica.

"The material was sent to individual Soldiers then they brought it to the chapel and we stored it in our connex until we had enough boxes of material to deliver," said Roberts. "There have also been donations of money directly from churches and individuals to the Red Cross."

The Red Cross in Kamenica is a model for other agencies looking for assistance because their only requirement to receive help is someone in need.

I am concerned a lot about the circumstances that the poor are facing," said Morina. "I am doing this job so people don't suffer through a worse situation."

"The UMT (unit ministry team) from 6A made contact with the

Kamencica Red Cross because of their willingness to serve all people and the poor in that area regardless of ethnic background,” said Roberts.

There are many successful examples of help reaching those who need it most. Staff Sgt. Jim Dunn, a Soldier with the 6A rotation initiated the process to arrange surgery for Albert Aivazi, a baby boy with a cleft pallet. Chaplain Viveros is working out the final arrangements with the boy’s family and local authorities.

“If everything goes well, Albert and his mother will be on their way to Italy on Tuesday the 22nd of March for the operation,” said Viveros.

“Everywhere Americans go, a door opens,” said Afrim Viveros, Albert’s father.

With the handoff of responsibility from the 6A to the 6B rotation, Soldiers are looking for ways to help.

“Right now we are still getting our feet wet with what is going on and how we can help,” said Chaplain (LTC) Lawrence M. Hendel, Staff Chaplain for Task Force Falcon. “Our hallmark is consistency and fairness, not favoritism. Probably the best thing Soldiers can do is tell people back home what they are doing in the community and for Soldiers to really become aware of the needs of the people.”

As Soldiers look for ways to involve the folks back home it is important to understand there is a right way.

“All donations are worked through the S5 and given to Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) not to individuals,” said Col. Tom C. Loomis, Task Force Falcon G5. “The idea is that the Soldier coordinates with the battalion S5 and gets a point of contact with the local NGO and gives that info to the organizations back home. We facilitate the contact and make sure the system is working.”

As Soldiers of KFOR 6B continue the mission of maintaining peace and stability in the Multi-national Brigade (East) sector, they will continue to expand the boundaries of community, one neighbor helping another. ☒



(Above) Spec. Jasmine Yates, Task Force Sidewinder Chaplain's Assistant, opens a box of clothing to distribute at the Kamenica Red Cross. (Below) Morina talks with a translator and local residents.



Avoid getting lost with GPS



Affordable and compact makes today's GPS systems a great way to keep on track

Weighing in at only four ounces, this device can help you pinpoint a position within 10 feet. This handy little receiver is both powerful and affordable

Hey, are you tired of getting lost? Are you driving aimlessly across the Kosovo countryside, because you may have missed your last turn-off? Do you think, perhaps, the reason you keep seeing that red Volvo parked in front of a that two-story, red brick house, is because you're driving around in circles?

Well, I have just the thing for you – the Magellan eXplorist 100, a handy little Global Positioning Satellite unit (GPS). The eXplorist delivers real GPS features in an easy-to-use, pocket-sized unit.

Weighing in at only four ounces, this device can help you pinpoint a position within 10 feet (in case you're wondering, that's three meters in Europe). This handy little receiver is both powerful and affordable, with a suggested retail price of only \$99.

The eXplorist 100 features True-Fix GPS Technology, which takes advantage of 14 parallel channels. By accessing up to 14 satellites, you'll be sure of fast signal acquisition, minimal signal loss and reliable accuracy.

Besides getting lost, if you're one

of those who easily loses things, the eXplorist is rather hard to miss, with its bright orange, rubber-armored, impact resistant, waterproof case.

Best of all, the eXplorist is ready to go, out of the box, with no service fees or activation fees, so you can use it all the time.

If you want to talk about versatility, the eXplorist will allow you to save up to three track log files, 2,000 track-points and 20 routes to guide you to Babljak/Bablak, Pasjane/Pasjan, or even Bilince and back.

It also allows you to track 500 Points of Interest (PoI). While there are built-in PoI's, such as roads, rivers or lakes, you can also add your own, like a campsite, your favorite fishing hole, or where your vehicle is parked in a large parking lot.

It's relatively easy to use, with one-button access that takes you directly to all of the important features. Those features include three navigation screens: A plotter screen; a graphical compass screen; and a position screen, which provides views of position, elevation, accuracy, date and time, speed, direc-

tion, distance to destination and a trip odometer, plus battery life levels.

You should be able to get more than 14 hours of usage on a single set of two AA alkaline batteries, with the backlight off. You can use it in temperatures ranging from 14 to 140 degrees Fahrenheit.

If you're riding with allies, that's fine, too. The eXplorist allows you to choose languages from English, French, German, Spanish, Italian, Swedish, Finnish, Portuguese, Dutch or Norwegian.

For those of you who like to accessorize, you can always pick up a leather carrying case, a swivel mount (for car or boat), and even a bicycle mount, for when you're out and about on two wheels.

Finally, this little GPS comes with a two-year European warranty (one-year in North America).

All-in-all, this handy little gadget may just be what you're looking for to help get you going in the right direction again. Which might just come in handy if you're anywhere near the Administrative Boundary Line. ☑

Celebrate Woman's history month



March is the month to remember the accomplishments women have made throughout history and celebrate their contributions to society.

In today's society, things have changed and women continue to overcome many of the challenges rooted in a past of inequality for their sex.

In a society where women have never been more free, it is easy to forget the number of accomplished female who have paved the way for these rights.

One reason it is important to remember these historic figures is because March is Women's History month. This month has been set aside to remember all of the great women who have helped shape our world.

The start of the celebration began in 1911 in Europe when March 8th was made the official "International Women's Day". This was during a time where women's suffrage, or winning the right to vote, was a very controversial topic. After women received voting rights, the topic of women's rights was overshadowed by World War II and the Great Depression.

During the 1960's, women and their freedoms were the hot topic once again with the Women's Liberation Movement. Several important female leaders, such as Betty Friedan and Gloria Steinem, influenced this change in the way society viewed women.

Slowly the ideal of middle-class

house wife had evolved into women having professional aspirations outside the home.

Building on these movements, it brings us to present day Women's History Month. In today's society, things have changed and women continue to overcome many of the challenges rooted in a past of inequality for their sex.

Gradually this historic month has grown to highlight the accomplishments and history of females. Even though this is important to celebrate, it is important to remember the goal the month underlines and it is the day when it is impossible to teach or learn history without remembering the significant contributions women have made throughout history.

One of these contributions are women serving in the military alongside men. Although females are still not allowed in combat MOS's, they are serving along side males on the front lines in Operation Iraqi freedom and Operation enduring Freedom.

We work in a military where women are rising to the top of the ranks. In

this division, there are several females in leadership positions. In a world that used to be run solely by men, there are now female Colonels and Command Sergeants Major. There are important females represented throughout the ranks both here in Kosovo as well as around the world.

The women we are currently serving here with are daughters, sisters, and of course mothers. Women's History Month is a time to stop, recognize and thank the women who we may take for granted during the year.

Women's history is more than just a day, and more than just a month. It is something that has been building since the beginning of time. It is a celebration of the women who have shaped our society. In an age where there has never been a female United States president and some wages are still less than her male counterparts. It is easy to see that we as a society still have a long way to go. This is only the beginning. There are still records to break and famous firsts to achieve. Have a great Women's History month! 🇺🇸



Sgt. Tyler Youngs completes the transition of the van donations by removing the U.S. Army license plates with the assistance from a local national.

Car donation helps town

Story and Photos by Spc. Lynette Hoke

Three 1999 eight passenger white Toyota mini-vans were donated to the municipality of Kacanik on Feb 15th. The minivans were donated through the Department Resource Management Office (DRMO).

"It is a good feeling, by us donating the minivans, it frees up their budget for the town to do other things," said Maj. Anthony P. Ross, Civil Affairs Team Leader, attachment of the 432nd Civil Affairs Battalion of Green Bay, Wisc. DRMO enables military units like Civil Affairs to donated excess inventoried items to towns in Kosovo. The donations are a humanitarian effort and allow towns to free up their budget to be use towards other projects that are needed.

The vans were excess property and through DRMO they were able to be donated to the municipality of Kacanik. According to the municipality of Kacan-

ik, one mini-van will be given to the health sector, one will be used for educational department and the other will remain with the municipality.

The health sector really has a use for the vehicle, said Xhelal Gashi, the president of the municipality of Kacanik. Several doctors need reliable transportation for the kidney disease patients because they need to drive to Gnjilane every two to three days, said Gashi.

The towns are also monitored for items of need as well, according to Sgt. Tyler L. Youngs, Civic Affairs Team Sergeant of Civic Affairs Team Alpha - 1 (CATA-1), attachment of the 432nd Civil Affairs Battalion.

If the items aren't found through DRMO then the items can be found through other ways, according to Youngs.

DRMO tracks government property

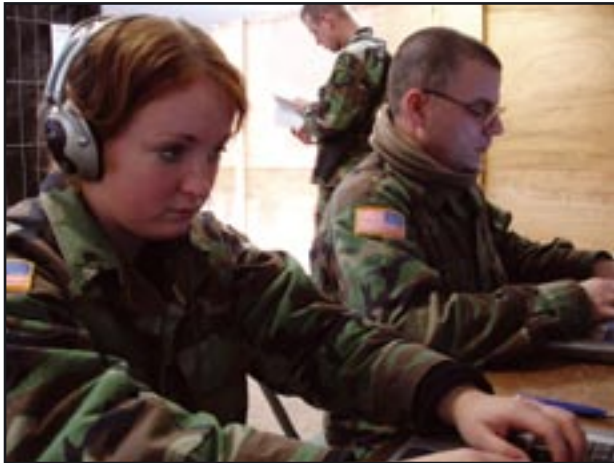
in the military system, for example, vehicles, tents and trucks, said Youngs.

If the equipment is excess, if it's at the end of mission or end of life-cycle the property records are sent to the DRMO which then disposes of the extra equipment by sales (auctioned at US Installations), said Youngs.

Also, if there is a priority, DRMO will send the equipment to places with missions such as emergency Humanitarian Assistance operations, said Young. Brown and Root is a subcontractor with DRMO and KBR stores the extra equipment they have here on Camp Bondsteel.

"It is costly to send the excess or unneeded equipment stuff back up to Germany so that is how Civil Affairs is able to give some of this equipment out, with a savings to the taxpayers," said Youngs. ☐

Another Army Acronym



Top right, Spc. Lyette Hoke, 135th MPAD, print journalist, Staff Sgt. R. David Kyle, 135th MPAD, print journalist and 2nd Lt. Timothy Mills, Officer in Charge at Camp Montieith work in the production cell in Hohenfels, Germany. Bottom right, Capt. Christian Patterson, 102nd MPAD, Deputy Public Affairs Officer, tapes an interview with a member of the British Green Jackets on the flightline at Camp Bondsteel. When not deployed Patterson is employed full time with the Mississippi National Guard for Public Affairs as a broadcaster. Spc. Benjamin Houtcooper, 135th MPAD, broadcast journalist finishes up a video shoot of Task Force Sidewinder at Camp Montieith. Photos courtesy of Public Affairs Office.

By 1st Lt. Melanie Meyer

SITREP, FRAGO, TacLaN. From patrolling missions in the field to information technology in the office, the Army revolves around acronyms on a daily basis.

Most acronyms are universal to all Soldiers but there are still a few 'Say again, overs' when it comes to such phrases as "the MPAD will be there."

So what exactly is an MPAD? MPAD stands for Mobile Public Affairs Detachment. Much like Task Force Falcon, the unit consists of troops from different states. The unit is comprised of National Guard Soldiers of the 135th MPAD from Iowa and Minnesota and the 102nd MPAD from Mississippi.

There are four primary reasons the military has a Public Affairs section. The first is so the military can evaluate the public opinion towards the Department of Defense and the Armed Forces. Second, the group evaluates the efficiency of policies and actions of DoD on issues which gain public opinion. Third, the PA practitioners provide recommendations to commanders and defense

officials in order to help them evaluate public opinion. Fourth, the MPAD and public informed through broadcast and print journalism products.

The detachment is split into three sections, broadcast, print and media. All three function together to provide information for Soldiers, civilians and their families.

The print team produces such products as newspapers, magazines, fact sheets, base guides and flyers.

"Working on the print team gives me an opportunity to use my art education while laying out the products," said Sgt. 1st Class John Makamson, managing editor.

The main reason we produce these items is to provide information and to increase the morale of the troops.

"We serve as facilitators for the media," said Sgt. 1st Class Duff McFadden, media operations Non-Commissioned Officer.

The media team also prepares Sol-

diers for interviews and responds to media queries, he said.

"The broadcast team's mission is to tell the Army's story through both civilian and military media through radio and television products," said Spc. Catie Beck, broadcast journalist.

One misunderstanding is that the civilian media and the military Public Affairs Soldiers function under the same guidelines. The Public Affairs Soldiers follow the characteristics of the military culture such as Duty, Honor, and Country.

It's a fact that the civilian media and the MPAD may carry the same equipment but they have two very separate missions.

The most important role of Public Affairs is to protect the integrity of the military as an institution overall. This is done by ensuring it's recognized as the most reliable source for official military information among all other competing sources. ■

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PHOTO BY SPC. ALICIA DILL